

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think the question that we all are facing is a simple proposition; that we all are brothers' and sisters' keepers. We have heard from those who want to follow the current pulse of America that most Americans are not concerned about this business here. In fact, we find that maybe about 80 percent of the Federal employees are, in fact, working. So all that we are doing here is creating noise and disturbance.

But I know America better, and I know what the fabric and the heart of Americans are all about. Americans are caring people, and we are wise people as well, and we recognize that a government defaulted and undermined and demoralized is not a functioning government, and that is what we have today.

We have it because the Speaker of this House has refused to accept the responsibility of governance. It is all right to campaign and to share with those who would listen to your political philosophy and tag it as a contract on America, or a new day for America, or a new deal, but it is the next thing to translate those activities into governance, into making America work, into making this country function and to be responsible for this country's future.

Mr. Speaker, there are faces to this tragedy, this Government shutdown, and so today I am filing a continuing resolution that will allow this Government to open today and to fund most Government operations at 90 percent funding, and to pay those furloughed Federal employees. Because I know what the responsibility is of legislators and this House that has the power of the purse strings of this Nation.

First, it was to pass appropriations bills before November. This was not done by this Republican majority. But then it was to have a sense of humanity and dignity and believing in the integrity of this Congress, which is to not allow the least of our brothers and sisters to be able to go without food, like those in my community working at the Veterans' Administration Hospital. Employees that, in fact, are not able to pay their rent. They are being evicted and their child, a disabled individual, is not able to go to that particular day care.

Or another person who calls and says, and she happens to be in a Republican Member's district, but calling and pleading with me, she needs food to eat now and her child is in need of constant medical attention. She still has medical coverage, but she will not be able to pay the premiums.

Or another NASA employee that says help us get back to work. And then a senior citizen, likewise in a surrounding area, but calling me out of pain, saying the cuts the Republicans are proposing to make in Congress are terrible and a grave injustice to the disabled and the elderly.

What about those small businesses which have become the backbone of

America, particularly as corporate America is downsizing, AT&T eliminating 40,000 jobs. Well, let me tell my colleagues, we are losing some \$40 million a day in being unable to help our small businesses under the Small Business Administration; 225 small businesses are not being able to receive loan moneys so that they can keep their doors open, and so they can hire people and create jobs for America.

I think it is important today to ask that this continuing resolution be passed. I am also going to make an inquiry into the Department of the Agriculture because many of our citizens need food stamps, and we need to have a waiver of requirements to help people stay away from the brink of disaster.

And last, we have a situation where our States do not know what to do. Many who are not able to get unemployment insurance, the doors are closed because the moneys coming from the Federal Government are no longer here. We are in a constitutional crisis. This Nation is frankly being brought to its knees and we are bleeding.

And now, as we have said in times past about stop the bleeding when there has been violence among our youth, we are doing violence to Americans, and I simply cannot believe that we live in a nation where someone would say, "I have got mine, you get yours."

I ask the Republicans to join me in my continuing resolution to open the doors of this Government until January 19 so that we can discuss the philosophical differences, but we can stop the bleeding. And we can ensure that we have the kind of humanity that would allow this citizen to get food to eat, and disabled children to go to the day care that they need.

Mr. Speaker, it is time now for the politics to be put aside. We have to govern, and we have to govern for all of America.

SPEAKER GINGRICH MAY RECESS HOUSE SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to go over a resolution which has raised the eyebrows of a number of our colleagues here that the House leadership filed with the Committee on Rules today. It has been described as a resolution which will allow the House to go on vacation or recess until the 23d of January, and I wanted to make the point to my colleagues, because I think there is genuine concern about this, that that is not what the resolution does.

It says that the Speaker may declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair on January 5 through Tuesday, January 9; and then the Speaker may declare a recess subject to the call of the

Chair from January 9 to January 12, and it goes on from January 12 to January 16, and from the 16th through the 19th, but it does not call for a recess. It gives the Speaker the power to make the call on that, and I wanted to assure my colleagues—

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman, if this passes until when, until January 23d?

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would tell the gentleman, no, this is the 5th.

Mr. HEFNER. But it would be a continuing. He can only do it for 3 days, and then he has to have the authority to do it for 3 more days. Is that the understanding?

What I want to get at is how many legislative days would from now, until when, the 23d or whatever, how many legislative days would that entail? I say that for this reason; for people that would be filing discharge petitions or what have you.

Would the gentleman explain to me exactly what it does one more time.

Mr. KINGSTON. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I will show the gentleman the wording on this, because as it was described at the Chair to me, I was confused about it also.

As I see it, it goes on a week-to-weekend, week-to-weekend time period, and it would give the Chair some discretion, yet, at the same time, we would not be going on vacation or recess unless the Chair had that—

Mr. HEFNER. What I want to get at is, we would have what, in essence, would be a recess for 2 or 3 weeks, but there would only be 2 or 3 legislative days that would be counted, if somebody wanted to file a discharge petition or what have you here in the House. Am I correct?

Mr. KINGSTON. Reclaiming my time once again, I would say to my learned colleague, who has more experience at this than I do, that I am not certain how this impacts discharge petitions, and I assume the discharge petitions he is referring to are ones that affect the continuing resolution. Am I correct on that?

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I understand the discharge petition has to lay for, say, so many days, but they have to be legislative days. Under this we could be in recess for 3 or 4 days but we would only have 1 legislative day.

Mr. KINGSTON. Is the gentleman saying discharge petitions specifically?

Mr. HEFNER. I want to know how many legislative days it would entail if this authority was granted and the Speaker exercised it, as is his authority to do that.

Mr. KINGSTON. As I read this, it allows the Speaker to declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair through the 9th, and then goes on from the 9th to the 12th and the 12th to the 16th.

Mr. HEFNER. And he would have to do it again on the 9th through the following week.

Mr. KINGSTON. Let me say this, I will give this to the gentleman so that he can read it, because I had not read it earlier today when it was being made.

Mr. HEFNER. When will this take place? Will this be tomorrow?

Mr. KINGSTON. Should the House vote on it? It has been filed with the Committee on Rules. And, as the gentleman knows, I am not on the Committee on Rules and I do not choose to represent them. I just wanted to make sure that my colleagues and friends on that side of the aisle knew that there was more to it than that we were going home until the 23d. Because I, like many of my colleagues, have a lot of concerns about the situation right now and would like to engage with them, if they care to dialog on the budget.

What I am concerned about right now is that the interest on the national debt is the third largest expenditure in our entire budget right now. And that interest will exceed military spending in the next 2 years if we do not get it under control.

I will be happy to yield in a minute or two on the subject of the budget, because, as I said earlier, I do not want to represent the Committee on Rules on all the fine print of this.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would again yield for 30 seconds for me to ask this question.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend for 30 seconds, with the abundance of recognition from that side of the aisle that, ordinarily, it is hard for them to yield to us in special hour, so I am doing this in the camaraderie that I think this House needs more than ever.

Mr. HEFNER. What I am getting at is this is the same procedure, if this passes, the same procedure we have been using for the past 12 days; am I correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereinafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL ORDER

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized in place of the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. FIELDS] for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

U.S. GOVERNMENT IN A STATE OF POLITICAL DISORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I looked at my dictionary, Webster's dictionary,

before I came down here this evening and saw that it defines anarchy as the absence of government; a state of political disorder.

Well, folks, that is where we are tonight, and I was reminded of that even more when someone from the other body, from Texas, who aspires to the highest office in this land, appeared on the David Brinkley show last Sunday. For those of my colleagues who may have missed it, that individual taunted the audience with this question about the Government shutdown. He said, "Have you missed the Government? I mean, doesn't it strike you as funny that 280,000 Government employees are furloughed and large segments of the Government of the United States are shut down?"

Well, let me give that fellow from Texas a heavy dose of reality.

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I hate to burst his bubble, but I have a list here of residents of the Ninth Congressional District of Ohio who would respectfully beg to differ with him. As a matter of fact, no, it does not strike them as funny that much of our Government is shut down.

For example, Jan, a student from Toledo, was supposed to start school this week, but now will not be able to because of this budget impasse. Jan called me and said, and I quote her directly, "My financial aid papers can't be processed until the Department of Education gets up and running, and I can't start school without having the paperwork processed." She said there are "millions of students like me." Well, she does not think it is very funny.

Two disabled veterans from our community, Gary and Tom, called our office to say that they were very upset that their compensation checks are late. They asked me, "How are we supposed to pay our bills?" They represent millions of disabled veterans.

Another veteran in my district, Charles, of Oregon, OH, is 76 years old and receives railroad retirement, which he earned. He asked me, "How come they cut my check by \$124?" The veterans of my district, and all veterans all over our Nation, know what some elected officials clearly do not know. They do not get it. They do not know that in response to this shutdown, railroad retirement reduced its benefit payments by 64 percent; that the December 22 continuing resolution which provided continuing funding for certain veterans benefits and payments expires today; that contractors providing services and supplies to hospitals will not be paid and benefits for January will not be paid on February 1.

Approximately 170,000 veterans did not receive their December Montgomery GI bill education benefits and will not receive benefits this month.

These are the same men and women who have served our country in times of crisis, the soldiers and families who have given above and beyond the call of

duty in defense of this Nation, yet some would dishonor their honorable service by saying it is funny that we are leaving them high and dry.

Deborah, of Waterville, OH, called my office to say that she and her family departed last week for a long-awaited holiday hiking vacation at the Grand Canyon, but the canyon was closed due to the shutdown. She said, "Please find a way to end this political nonsense now. These tactics affect the American citizens and many hard-working Government employees that now have no means to generate income for their families."

She is right. On an average day, 383,000 people visit our National Parks System. Losses for businesses in those communities adjacent to our national parks could reach \$14 million a day due to reduced tourism. It is not funny to those people. They understand what governance is all about.

Loryn, of Toledo, called my office to say that she was supposed to begin to study in Spain and was scheduled to leave January 5, but will not be able to because she cannot get her passport back from the passport office. She has lost \$1,000 already in nonrefundable airfare and may lose the \$5,000 paid for this semester of schooling.

She is not alone. On an average day the State Department receives over 23,000 applications for passports and 20,000 visas for visitors to this country. To those citizens and to those visitors it is not funny at all.

Jan, of Toledo, called my office to say that her son and daughter are serving in the Peace Corps in the Ukraine, and guess what. Their stipends for service were cut off. It is not funny to them.

Let us bring up the Dole bill, pass it, and put America on the right track again, and tell the gentleman from the other body that his irresponsible comments border on anarchy.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, recently I came across an excellent address which had been given by a long-time friend of mine, Mr. Eugene T. Rossides, a very distinguished lawyer, formerly of New York, now of Washington, DC. It was upon the occasion of the 25th anniversary commemoration of the creation of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, GA.

Mr. Rossides and I served together in the Eisenhower administration, where we were both Cabinet assistants, and in the Nixon administration he was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement, Tariff and Trade Affairs, and Operations for 4 years.